

MAY 15 2006

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated February 17, 2006, Claims 1-5, 12, 13, 15-18, and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Claims 11 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 6-10 and 19 are objected to, but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

For the reasons set forth hereafter, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in Claims 1 and 13, and the claims depending respectively therefrom, includes features which are not anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited references. Reconsideration is, therefore, respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claims 1-4, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Sampson*, and the rejection of Claims 1, 3-5, 13, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Fulghum* will be considered together.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1 and 13, and the claims depending respectively therefrom, on the basis that both *Sampson* and *Fulghum* teach a drain seal having a unitary body formed of first and second moldingly joined portions.

However, it is respectfully submitted that aside from possibly molding each separate component, both *Sampson* and *Fulghum* are devoid of any teaching or suggestion of double shot molding first and second portions of a drain seal into a unitary one-piece body.

*Sampson* clearly uses a solvent bond to join two separate bodies into a single structure. *Fulghum* teaches a closure fitting in which a male part 21 is adapted to engage a female part 19 in a forced fitting relationship.

Both *Sampson* and *Fulghum* are devoid of any teaching of moldingly joining first and second portions of a drain seal into a unitary structure. Nor do *Sampson* and *Fulghum* teach or suggest joining the first and second portions of a drain seal by double shot molding in to a unitary structure.

For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in Claims 1 and 13, and the claims depending respectfully therefrom, include

features which are not anticipated by the cited references.

Claims 11 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sampson*. The Examiner contends that it will be obvious to make the first and second portions out of different materials.

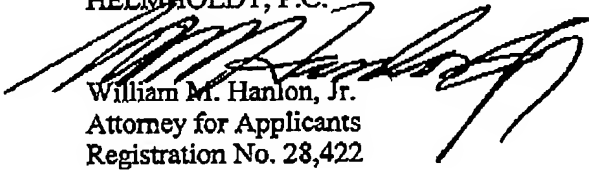
Claims 11 and 14 depend from claims 1 and 13, respectively. For the same reasons setting forth above with respect to the patentability of Applicants' invention defined in Claims 1 and 13 over *Sampson*, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' invention defined in Claims 11 and 14 likewise patentably defines over *Sampson* for the same reasons.

Claims 6-10 and 129 are objected to, but are indicated as being allowable if written in independent form. Thus, Claims 6 and 19 have been amended to independent form, including all of the features of the respective base claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in Claims 6-10 and 19 is allowable.

In conclusion, for the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in the claims originally rejected by the Examiner includes features which are not anticipated or rendered obvious by such references, taken singly or in any combination. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims are in condition for allowance; a notice of which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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